

Appl. No. 10/042,822
Amdt. dated January 8, 2002
Reply to Office Action of March 26, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-35 (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an absorbent web having a dry feel when wet comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing an inherently hydrophilic basesheet comprising papermaking fibers and having an upper surface and a lower surface, said upper surface having elevated and depressed regions; and
- b) depositing hydrophobic matter preferentially on the elevated regions of the upper surface of said basesheet,

wherein said basesheet has a Wet Compressed Bulk of about 5 cc/g or greater.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein said step of preparing the basesheet comprises the steps of depositing an aqueous slurry of papermaking fibers on a foraminous web to produce an embryonic web; molding said web on a three-dimensional substrate; and drying said web.

38-39(Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein said basesheet is a wet-laid tissue sheet.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein said web is an airlaid structure.

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42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the hydrophobic matter is discontiguous.
43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein said hydrophobic matter comprises synthetic fibers fixedly attached to the upper surface of said basesheet such that about 50% or less of the surface area of the basesheet is covered with the synthetic fibers.
44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising hydrophobic matter on a portion of the lower surface of said basesheet.
45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein said elevated regions comprise from 5 to 300 protrusions per square inch having a characteristic height of at least 0.2 mm relative to said depressed regions.
46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein at least 30% of the upper surface of said basesheet remains substantially free of hydrophobic matter and said web has a Rewet value of 0.6 g or less.
47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein essentially all of said hydrophobic matter resides above the 50% material line of a characteristic cross-section of said web.
48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the superficial basis weight of said hydrophobic matter is from about 1 to about 10 gsm and said basesheet has a basis weight of from about 10 to about 70 gsm.